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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

# Communications for development programmes in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system, 1/ as well as the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held in Harare from 2 to 5 September 1996,

Recalling its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995 on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General; 1/

2. Considers that informal round tables, such as the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development organized in Harare by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, constitute an effective mechanism of inter-agency cooperation and coordination for promoting and advancing communication for development due to, inter alia, their

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ A/51/314.

grass-roots participation, their openness to partners outside the United Nations system and the outreach of their outcomes;

3. Recognizes the importance of strengthening the intergovernmental process within the United Nations system in the field of communication and development;

4. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the sixth Round Table, and invites all actors in development at the country level, including the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to take the observations contained in the report into consideration when planning and implementing projects and programmes, with the cooperation of the resident coordinator;

5. Stresses the need to support participatory communication for development as an important process for increasing people's participation, encouraging dialogue and the ownership of development efforts by their beneficiaries, and contributing to the empowerment of people for development;

6. Recognizes the relevance for policy makers and decision makers at all levels to give increased priority to communication for development, and hence to include it as an integral component in every development project or programme;

7. Recommends that the next informal round table be held in the Latin American and Caribbean region to build upon the meetings held in Asia and Africa so as to be close to the reality and needs of the developing countries, without losing sight of global perspectives, and invites Member States to cooperate with the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the regular convening of informal round tables on communication for development, with the full participation of the international financial institutions at the country level;

8. Reaffirms the paramount importance of financial cooperation and the transfer of technology in the context of communication for development programmes and projects, and calls upon the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system to assist Governments in introducing technologies and innovative methods for enhancing communication for development;

9. Stresses that resources mobilization remains an important objective for capacity-building in the area of communication for development;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the agency with the principal mandate in the field of communication in the United Nations system, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with the periodicity that was agreed upon in Assembly resolution 50/130.

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